



GILL

Franklin County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Gill offers education, recreation and quiet, peaceful living opportunities within its 15 square miles. The rural character of the town has been preserved, even though the last 50 years has seen a transition from a farming community to a bedroom community. The fewer than 1600 inhabitants live mostly in single-family homes, although there is one development of condominiums.

Gill is the home of the presently co-ed Northfield Mount Hermon School, known in the last century as the Mount Hermon School for Boys. The preparatory school has a good reputation for both academic and sports programs. The town's location on the Connecticut River brings both state-owned and private boating facilities and the opportunity to compete for the largest bass in the river. Barton Cove, just off the Mohawk Trail, has camping facilities, and nearby, on a small island in the river, a pair of American Bald Eagles have been nesting for the last five years. River boat rides pass under the newly restored historic French King Bridge, which was recently granted a Preservation Award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and which overlooks one of the most beautiful scenic areas in Massachusetts, especially during the foliage season. There is a nine-hole golf course which holds several tournaments during the year, horse riding facilities along quiet country roads, and in winters with a lot of snow, snowmobiling on the open fields.

In 1993, Gill celebrated its 200th birthday with events scheduled throughout the year, including a Bicentennial Parade.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Northfield on the northeast, the Connecticut river on the east and south, Greenfield on the west, and Bernardston on the northwest. Gill is 7 miles east of Greenfield, 36 miles north of Springfield, and 95 miles northwest of Boston.

**Total Area:** 14.83 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 13.99 sq. miles

**Population:** 1,583

**Density:** 113 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Northfield, Bernardston, Greenfield, Millers Falls

## Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 863-8103

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1793

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	913		
Democrats	226	24.8	%
Republicans	75	8.2	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	612	67.0	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Gill town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,363	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	1,363	100.0
Male.....	665	48.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	10	0.7
Female.....	698	51.2	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	62	4.5	Puerto Rican.....	1	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	106	7.8	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	96	7.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	8	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	102	7.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,353	99.3
20 to 24 years.....	47	3.4	White alone.....	1,323	97.1
25 to 34 years.....	121	8.9	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	244	17.9	Total population.....	1,363	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	302	22.2	In households.....	1,359	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	69	5.1	Householder.....	537	39.4
60 to 64 years.....	40	2.9	Spouse.....	312	22.9
65 to 74 years.....	81	5.9	Child.....	406	29.8
75 to 84 years.....	65	4.8	Own child under 18 years.....	309	22.7
85 years and over.....	28	2.1	Other relatives.....	39	2.9
Median age (years).....	42.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	13	1.0
18 years and over.....	1,040	76.3	Nonrelatives.....	65	4.8
Male.....	497	36.5	Unmarried partner.....	37	2.7
Female.....	543	39.8	In group quarters.....	4	0.3
21 years and over.....	986	72.3	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	195	14.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	4	0.3
65 years and over.....	174	12.8	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	69	5.1	Total households.....	537	100.0
Female.....	105	7.7	Family households (families).....	373	69.5
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	175	32.6
One race.....	1,349	99.0	Married-couple family.....	312	58.1
White.....	1,328	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	140	26.1
Black or African American.....	4	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	43	8.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	26	4.8
Asian.....	11	0.8	Nonfamily households.....	164	30.5
Asian Indian.....	5	0.4	Householder living alone.....	124	23.1
Chinese.....	3	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	58	10.8
Filipino.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	183	34.1
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over ..	127	23.6
Korean.....	1	0.1	Average household size.....	2.53	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.03	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	560	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	537	95.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	23	4.1
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	10	1.8
Some other race.....	5	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	14	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	537	100.0
White.....	1,342	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	437	81.4
Black or African American.....	9	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	100	18.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.62	(X)
Asian.....	11	0.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.16	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	10	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Gill is located, are State Route 2 and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway lines (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion of the county.

### Major Highways

The principal highways is State Route 2, which runs E-W across northern Massachusetts. U.S. Route 5 and Interstate Route 91 are easily accessible in neighboring Greenfield.

### Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service in Gill, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

### Bus

Gill is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), which provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through GMTA. The FRTA also provides fixed route service to Greenfield when Mount Hermon and Northfield Schools are in session.

### Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 3,013'x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.